expressed happiness at the progress and forward movement. Both sides felt that the process of improvement of relations should continue while differences are gradually resolved. The development of economic and trade linkages with Chine contribute meaningfully to this process. It was agreed to hasten finalisation of agreements on direct shipping and banking links. Ali Agreement on Avoidance of Double Taxation was signed during the visit. It is expected to facilitate investment and technology flows between the two countries.

During discussions the two sides stressed the importance of implementation of the Border Peace and Tranquillity Agreement and agreed to work towards turning India-China border areas into areas of friendship and to open further points for border trade between the two countries. The Chinese Vice Premier and Foreign Minister reiterated that the Kashmir question should be resolved through a patient dialogue between India and Pakistan.

The visit provided a useful opportunity for a detailed exchange of views where both sides have expressed their determination to continue positive developments in India-China relations so as to establish a mature, stable and long term relationship between the two countries.

Maintenance of National Highway between Calcutta and Bombay

•434. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Calcutta-Bombay National Highway via Keonjhargarh and Sambalpur is not being maintained properly;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) what steps are being taken to maintain the road; and

(d) what provision has been made for Eighth Five Year Plan in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Maintenance of National Highways is not a Plan activity. National Highways including Calcutta-Bombay route are maintained in a traffic worthy condition within available non-Plan funds.

Special programmes to curb population growth

*435. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR
SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any special programmes were launched on the World Population Day on 11 th July, 1994 to effectively curb the growth of population in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) World population day is used to increase awareness on small family norm. To this end the following programmes were launched on the World Population Day.

(i) Two stamps of the denomination Rs. 0.75 and Rs. 1.00- specially designed by the Department of Family Welfare were released by the President of India. The stamps focus on small family norm and male responsibility.

(ii) An entertainment based 90 minutes feature film named Meri Pyari Nimmo was formally released by Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare. The film promotes smaller families and spacing between children.

(iii) A World Population Day supplement was brought out in English, Hindi and regional languages in prominent Newspapers throughout the country.

(iv) The Department of Family Welfare funded Sahitya Kala Parishad, Government of NCT, for holding a Kavi Sammelan with renowned poets contributing on the theme of population.